

CENTER SCENE



The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter

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BYE, BYE ABACI

RFI. RFC? RFP! What's goin' on? LIS? Initials and more initials! Has anyone seen a manager? Badges? Security clearances? Are we getting a little silly or what?

Sound familiar? What's going on in the Bureau? Most employees at least suspect that we're in the process of doing something BIG. And we are. The Bureau is undertaking a major modernization effort, requiring procurement of a multi-million-dollar computer system. This effort is intended to create an efficient land information system that is responsive to the increasing public demand for more and better data.

But how do we get one of these? How do we guarantee any kind of success? Under the Federal Information Resource Management Regulations (essentially the Bible for all major ADP acquisitions), an agency must submit a draft contract to industry for comment. Our first official step in this process

was the issuance of an RFI (Request for Information) on March 24, 1984. This basically asked industry: What do you think we should have, "What would you do if you were awarded our contract?"

Based on vendor information and interest, a second RFI was issued on December 2, 1988. This one essentially asked industry, "Now, how do we implement this?" Their advice, coupled with all of our prior research and development, produced a 930-page document called the RFC (Request for Comment). On March 31, 1989, the Bureau mailed its RFC to over 375 vendors nationwide. Some are major systems contractors who will actually submit proposals; the others may be interested in teaming with them to bid on our modernization system.

From the RFC we hope to obtain comments on any restrictive or contradictory elements in our statement of work that might

lead to a protest under formal solicitation (the RFP, Request for Proposal), which will be issued in August, 1989. Another objective of the RFC is to obtain information concerning the major system methodologies for quality control, configuration management, and other implementation issues. The RFC is our final reality check before we ask contractors to spend substantial time and money in proposal development. It also gives us one more review to ensure that we are asking for what we want, and that the system will meet our envisioned needs.

So in the future, when you come upon locked doors, badge requirements, and demands to lock up documents, or are told not to speak to computer vendors, you know it is not some silly management scheme to make life difficult. It is in fact the only sensible way to approach a major systems acquisition.

TAKE A HIKE

A Colorado native, Susan Lindgren, grew up on the plains and didn't get involved in mountain hiking until the age of 47 when she went for a hike with her daughter. She found herself "breathless" in more ways than one, and decided then and there to join the Colorado Mountain Club.

Fifteen years later, she's going strong, not only hiking and leading groups with the CMC, but also organizing leading the WSN group called "Happy Hikers."

The Happy Hikers have walked trails in the foothills, mountains, and plains. Lost Lake, White Ranch, Barr Lake, and Brainard Lake are a few of the areas they've explored. They have enjoyed the golden aspen in the fall, cooked breakfast in a snowstorm on Kenosha Pass, taken hikes by moonlight, snowshoed, and even attended a cross-country ski lesson together. Susan's attitude is, "If the people in the group want to do it, we'll go."

Susan volunteers her time and energy to the Happy Hikers mainly because she "just likes to be in the mountains whenever possible." She enjoys introducing novice hikers to the Colorado mountains, as much as she



enjoys sharing outdoor experiences with more seasoned hikers.

"If more people were involved in hiking and outdoor activities, they wouldn't need some of the other classes WSN offers," Susan once said. She is a true believer in the therapeutic and healing properties of the wilderness.

Aside from her passion for the mountains, Susan enjoys spending time with her two grown daughters and their families ("including 3.3 grandchildren"). She also works as an accounting technician for the Bureau of Land Management.

We value Susan's contribution to the Womenschool program. Through her dedication, and dedication of other facilitators, our support group program has flourished, touching the lives of many. We thank Susan for her time, energy, and caring. We're proud to say Susan is part of the Womenschool network.

Reprinted from Womenschool Network. Susan is in the Data Control Section at the SC.

Recruitment Dilemma

Who do you hire to cruise timber in the Petrified Forest—a forester or a geologist?

Watch for
American Indian Observance Day

THE TT STAFF



John Montoya, Linda Hill, Karen Miranda, Jennifer Reese, Bob Ireland, Mary Gaylord, Peter Doran

Terribly troublesome? Truly talented? Tough troopers? While these may all apply, the TT stands for Technology Transfer, and the staff is here to serve you.

Technology Transfer is the Bureau's office for putting together media packages to communicate new ideas, innovations, processes, and technologies, and to facilitate their rapid adoption. The staff operates on the premise that if you're going to spend the money to do developmental work, you should spend the money to communicate what you've learned to both internal and external publics, whether it was successful or not. They work in partnership with any BLM office to achieve this goal.

There are many facets to the Technology Transfer Staff. One facet involves publications. Writer/Editor Karen Miranda is

responsible for sending publications through the approval process. She handles the writing and editing of printed material, as well as of video and slide show scripts. Her current projects include a wildlife economics book and a video script for Automation Update Volume III. Editorial Assistant Linda Hill also edits and consults with clients on

written material. Presently she is working on the Colorado State Office's Recreation 2000 Project.

Graphics are another important facet of the staff. Visual Information Specialists Peter Doran and Jennifer Reese, and Illustrator John Montoya make up the graphics section. They are able to handle most requests in-house, but what they can't do they contract out, working closely with contractors to get a quality product. Their work includes layout and design for publications, brochures, and reports; planning and creation of poster sessions and exhibits; and production of slides, overheads, and other visuals for presentations. Current projects include the International Geological Congress exhibit and an extensive exhibit for the Boy Scouts National Jamboree to be held

this summer.

Audio Visual Production Specialist Bob Ireland handles another facet of the staff. He guides, produces, and edits video-assisted or slide-tape training programs, information programs, and briefings. He is involved in all phases of these productions, from planning and story boarding to lighting, directing, and filming. On occasion, he is required to be a daredevil and shoot footage while leaning out of a helicopter, as he did recently for a scoping tape on the Dolores River. Other current projects include a video on the access challenge, and a slide show on the Front Range Project for the Colorado State Office.

Staff Chief Mary Gaylord has been taking on a new facet of the staff. As of October 1988, the management of Research and Development was moved to this staff from the Washington Office. This function involves forming an expanded network to manage the R&D program - including projects that have been done previously, those currently being done, or those planned for the future. Mary feels that this new function will create a nice balance with the other, more media-oriented functions of the staff.

Though the staff has many aspects, they all work closely together throughout the phases of a project to create the best finished product possible. So if you have a project that requires quality talent and techniques, keep the TT Staff in mind.

COWBOY BOB

Robert Wilson, known to most SC employees as Bob, runs the Building 50 snack bar. He's been doing it for almost 4 years now. Bob also had a shop in Building 25 for 3 years and another at Ft. Logan for 2 years.

Bob's been with the State Rehabilitation Services, Business Enterprise Program, for the past 9 years. He has macular degeneration, a progressive eye disease in which the arteries into the optic nerve dry up. He can't read and he can't drive, which he says are the two things he misses doing the most. "I read every book Zane Grey wrote by the time I was 12 years old," says Bob, but even an 8 power magnifier is doesn't help him now.

Bob was born on a homestead in Otero County, 6 miles west of Tempest, Colorado. "I don't even have a birth certificate," he says. His mother was a school teacher in

Kansas and his father a farmer in Atwood, Kansas. Bob's granddad's uncle was Woodrow Wilson, the twenty-eighth president of the United States.

In the early 1940's, Bob and his father lived in Tintown which they refurbished after a flood. They also owned the Spruce Lodge Riding Academy. In 1959, because of his kids' involvement in 4-H (he has 1 son, 2 daughters, and 2 grandsons), Bob was on the original committee that started the "Little Britches" Rodeo. Bob and his brother broke and sold horses near Littleton.

Bob has worked a number of jobs over the years but his first really memorable one (for no wages) was the daily feeding of 500 rabbits, 30 chickens, 7 goats, and 3 dogs while his parents were at work. The rabbits were raised to supplement the family income. He's also worked as a ranch hand, salesman, truck driver, and at one time



worked for E. I. Dupont in Louviers, Colorado making dynamite.

Supplying the SC employees with coffee, donuts, and snacks keeps Bob pretty busy. In fact, on a really busy day, Bob sells about 50 pots of coffee.